

This Track 1 Decision Document is marked "Draft" but is a final document signed by the agencies.

ALM date 5/23/2002

**DOE/ID-10911**  
**July 2001**

**RECEIVED**

**SEP 04 2001**

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICE**

***Site 006 Track 1 Decision Documentation  
Package, OU 10-08***

**DECISION DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE  
COVER SHEET**

Prepared in accordance with

**TRACK 1 SITES:  
GUIDANCE FOR ASSESSING  
LOW PROBABILITY HAZARD SITES  
AT THE INEEL**

**Site Description: Cistern North of NRF**

**Site ID: 006**

**Operable Unit: 10-08**

**Waste Area Group: 10**

**I. SUMMARY – Physical description of the site:**

This site consists of an abandoned concrete cistern, located on a 1909 homestead formerly belonging to W. Zetzsch, who claimed 160 acres of land along a canal dug in the Big Lost River system. It is located on an unnamed two-wheel track north of the Naval Reactor Facility (NRF), located approximately 4 mi. southwest. Because of its remote location and proximity to the Big Lost River (1/2 mi.), it is possible the site was also a former stage stop.

This site was originally listed as part of an environmental baseline assessment in 1994 and identified as a potential new waste site in 1995. In accordance with Management Control Procedure-3448, *Reporting or Disturbance of Suspected Inactive Waste Sites*, a new site identification form was completed for this site. As part of the process, a field team wrote a site description, and collected photographs and global positioning system (GPS) coordinates of the site (the GPS coordinates are E309535.909 by N745867.140). The GPS coordinate system is listed as North American Datum 27, Idaho East Zone, State Plane Coordinates. The new site identification process also included a search and review of existing historical documentation.

The initial site investigation reported that the cistern contained an unknown amount of clear liquid, approximately 10 ft below land surface, with viscosity similar to water. It was suggested that the liquid resulted from rain or snowmelt. A subsequent site investigation was conducted June 26, 2001 by INEEL WAG 10 and Cultural Resources personnel to determine if there was water remaining in the cistern and if so, to test the pH. The cistern did contain water; it was at least 10 ft from land surface to the surface of the water. The concrete inside the cistern was in excellent condition considering it was nearly 100 years old. It was estimated that the water in the cistern was at least one ft deep and the quantity estimated at over 1,000 gallons. The pH of the water was tested using litmus paper and it was a neutral 7. The diameter of the cistern at its base was approximately 10-12 ft. The only debris observed was a piece of wood and natural algae. There was no evidence of odor.

The Cultural Resources representative stated that the cistern is considered a culturally significant site that should be disturbed as little as possible. Debris surrounding the cistern indicated that it might have been a stage stop at one time. There were numerous pieces of old glass, porcelain, a partial arrowhead, a few empty cans, snuff tins and depressions where small shacks formerly stood.

## DECISION RECOMMENDATION

### II. SUMMARY - Qualitative Assessment of Risk:

There is no evidence that a source of contamination exists at this site, nor is there empirical, circumstantial or other evidence of contaminant migration. The reliability of information provided in this report is high. Field investigations, interviews with Cultural Resource Management personnel, and photographs reveal no visual evidence of hazardous substances. Based on the current condition of this site, the lack of an existing source, the remote location and general lack of receptors, this site is not believed to present a danger to human health or the environment. Therefore, the overall qualitative risk at Site 006 is considered low.

### III. SUMMARY - Consequences of Error:

#### False negative error:

The possibility of contaminant levels at this site being above risk-based limits is remote. Site investigations and testing for pH show no evidence of contamination; there is no likely potential for contaminant migration which may present a higher than anticipated risk.

#### False positive error:

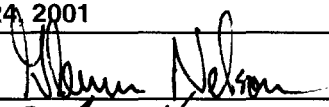
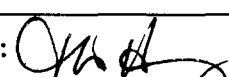
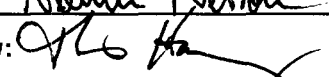
If further action were completed at this low risk site, funds could exceed the environmental benefit. Water sampling and analysis for organic compounds, metals, radionuclides and other hazardous constituents would be needed to verify the presence or absence of contamination. Based on existing information, there is no need for further action at this site.

### IV. SUMMARY - Other Decision Drivers:

INEEL Cultural Resource Management personnel determined that this site meets the requirements as a cultural resource. Prior to completing further field investigations, an intensive pedestrian inventory would need to be conducted. This survey would be required to identify and evaluate cultural properties within the area of potential effects for cleanup activities, conduct a preliminary assessment of the potential impact of cleanup on any identified properties, and develop preliminary avoidance strategies or data recovery plans if necessary to avoid adverse affects.

#### **Recommended Action:**

It is recommended that this newly identified site be classified as No Further Action. Field investigations, interviews with Cultural Resource personnel, historical research, and photographs indicate it is highly unlikely that hazardous or radioactive materials were generated or disposed of at this site. It is located in a remote, abandoned area with no general pathways or receptors. NRF, the closest facility, is located approximately 4 miles southwest of the site. Nothing at Site 006 points to evidence of contaminant migration or historical or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Cultural Resources personnel stated that this site is similar to a number of other cisterns on the INEEL that do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

<b>Signatures:</b>	<b># Pages: 16</b>	<b>Date: July 24, 2001</b>
<b>Prepared By: Marilyn Paarmann, WPI</b>	<b>DOE WAG Manager:</b> 	
<b>Approved By:</b> 	<b>Independent Review:</b> 	

**DECISION STATEMENT  
(DOE RPM)****Date Received:** 3/18/02**Disposition:**

The abandoned homestead cistern, site 006, was found to contain water, probably from snowmelt. No remedial action is required for this site.

**Date:** 4/02/02**# Pages:** 1**Name:** Kathleen Hain**Signature:** Kathleen E Hain

DECISION STATEMENT  
(EPA RPM)

Date Received:

9/4/01

10-08-006

## Disposition:

An old abandoned cistern containing aqueous liquid, site is not near known hazardous sites nor is depth of cistern such as to create a pathway to the underlying aquifer. Although only pH testing was performed, there is no information to suggest hazardous substances are present. No further remedial investigation appears necessary.

Date:

9/20/01

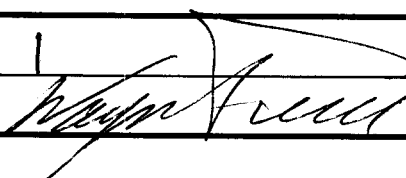
# Pages:

1

Name:

Wayne Pierre

Signature:



DECISION STATEMENT  
(IDEQ RPM)

Date Received: September 4, 2001

Disposition:

Site #006

Site #006 is an abandoned cistern located about 4 miles southwest of NRF that also may have been a stage stop. The cistern is located on a former homestead. There is no evidence of contamination at this site and the water in the cistern had a pH of 7 (litmus paper test). The state concurs this is a **no further action** site.

Date: 2/6/02

# Pages:

Name: Dean J. Mygard

Signature: Dean J. Mygard

PROCESS/WASTE WORKSHEET			PROCESS: Cistern North of NRF
SITE ID: 006			WASTE: Liquid in Cistern
Col 1 Processes Associated With This Site	Col 2 Waste Description & Handling Procedures	Col 3 Description & Location of any Artifacts/Structures/Disposal Areas Associated with this Waste or Process	
1909 former homestead cistern used for water storage	Concrete cistern containing ~2000 gal of liquid.	<p><b>Artifact:</b> Concrete cistern/liquid</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Former homestead site located along canal ~4 miles north of NRF. On unnamed two-wheel track near Big Lost River</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Concrete cistern ~10-12 base diameter containing ~2,000 gallons of water (likely rain or snowmelt). One side of the cistern has a collapsed wall. Water is ~10 ft below ground level and measures pH of 7. Cistern contains natural algae and wood pieces.</p>	



CONTAMINANT WORKSHEET								
SITE ID: 006			WASTE: (Col 2) Liquid in Cistern					
PROCESS: (Col 1) Cistern North of NRF								
Col 4 What Known/Potential Hazardous Substance/Constituents are Associated with this Waste or Process?	Col 5 Potential Sources Associated with this Hazardous Material	Col 6 Known/Estimated Concentration of Hazardous Substances/ Constituents	Col 7 Risk-based Concentration	Col 8 Qualitative Risk Assessment (hi/med/low)	Col 9 Overall Reliability (high/med/low)			
None	Groundwater	None	NA	Low	High			

NA = Not Applicable

**Question 1. What are the waste generation processes, locations, and dates of operation associated with this site?**

**Block 1 Answer:**

This site consists of an abandoned concrete cistern, located on a former 1909 homestead/stage stop along a canal dug in the Big Lost River system. The cistern sits approximately 2 ft above ground and a large portion of one wall is collapsed. The cistern contains ~2,000 gallons of liquid. It is located on an unnamed two-wheel track north of NRF (approximately 4 mi. away). Because of its age, remote location and proximity to the Big Lost River (1/2 mi.), it is likely the cistern was used for homestead water storage.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? X High \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Low (check one)**  
**Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

This information was provided by INEEL Cultural Resources personnel who have maps of the area [prior to it becoming the National Test Reactor Facility (NRTS) in 1949] showing names of early homesteaders and extent of their property. Site investigations in 1999 and 2001 provided descriptions of the site and photographs.

**Block 3 Has this INFORMATION been confirmed? X Yes \_\_\_ No (check one)**  
**If so, describe the confirmation.**

This information was confirmed with historical site maps and knowledge provided by Cultural Resources personnel, field investigations, and photographs.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

No available information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Analytical data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anecdotal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2,5,6	Documentation about data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical process data	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disposal data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current process data	<input type="checkbox"/>	Q.A. data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	Safety analysis report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engineering/site drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	D&D report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unusual Occurrence Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initial assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3
Summary documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Question 2. What are the disposal processes, locations, and dates of operation associated with this site? How was the waste disposed?**

**Block 1 Answer:**

This site consists of an abandoned concrete cistern containing ~2000 gallons of liquid, located on a former 1909 homestead/stage stop formerly belonging to a W. Zetzsch, who claimed 160 acres of land along a canal dug in the Big Lost River system. The cistern sits approximately 2 ft above ground and a large portion of one wall is collapsed. It is located on an unnamed two-wheel track north of NRF (approximately 4 mi. away). Because of its age, remote location and proximity to the Big Lost River (1/2 mi.), it is likely the cistern was used for homestead water storage. There is no evidence that waste was disposed to the cistern.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? ☒ High \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Low (check one)**  
**Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

INEEL Cultural Resources personnel confirmed that this site is a historic homestead and the cistern was used for fresh water storage. Site investigations in 1999 and 2001 provided descriptions of the site and photographs.

**Block 3 Has this INFORMATION been confirmed? ☒ Yes \_\_\_ No (check one)**  
**If so, describe the confirmation.**

This information was confirmed with historical site maps and knowledge provided by Cultural Resources personnel, field investigations, and photographs.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

No available information	<input type="checkbox"/>		Analytical data	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Question 3. Is there evidence that a source exists at this site? If so, list the sources and describe the evidence.**

**Block 1 Answer:**

There is no evidence that a source exists at this site. There is no evidence of hazardous constituents in or around the cistern. The pH reading of the liquid was neutral. The cistern contained a piece of wood and natural algae. The liquid was clear, with viscosity similar to water, and was odorless. Cultural Resource personnel stated that this cistern is very similar to a number of others on the INEEL that are related to domestic homesteads or stage stops.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources?   X   High      Med    Low (check one)  
Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

Interviews with Cultural Resource personnel revealed that this is a recorded historical/cultural resource. The cistern was likely used for water storage at the homestead/stage stop. Artifacts found at the site are domestic in nature, very old (predate INEEL activities), and pose no potential threat to human health or the environment.

**Block 3 Has this information been confirmed?   X   Yes      No (check one)  
If so, describe the confirmation.**

This information was confirmed with historical site maps, Cultural Resource historical research, field investigations, pH sample of the cistern liquid, and photographs.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

No available information	<input type="checkbox"/>		Analytical data	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Summary documents	<input type="checkbox"/>		Well data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Question 4. Is there empirical, circumstantial, or other evidence of migration? If so, what is it?****Block 1 Answer:**

There is no evidence of migration. Site investigations reveal no visual evidence of hazardous constituents, odors, or disturbed, stained or discolored soil areas surrounding the cistern. A pH reading was taken of the liquid in the cistern and measured 7 (neutral) on the scale. Information provided by INEEL Cultural Resources states that this site was formerly a historic homestead/stage stop and the cistern was used for fresh water storage. The site contains cultural artifacts dating to the early part of the twentieth century.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? ☒ High ☐ Med ☐ Low (check one)**  
**Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

The information was obtained from an environmental baseline assessment conducted in 1994, historical research, and subsequent site investigations conducted by Cultural Resource and WAG 10 Personnel.

**Block 3 Has this information been confirmed? ☒ Yes ☐ No (check one)**  
**If so, describe the confirmation.**

The information was confirmed through historical research, site inspections, pH sample results, and photographs.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

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Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Question 5. Does site operating or disposal historical information allow estimation of the pattern of potential contamination? If the pattern is expected to be a scattering of hot spots, what is the expected minimum size of a significant hot spot?**

**Block 1 Answer:**

There is no expected pattern of potential contamination because there is no evidence of hazardous constituents at this site. The liquid in the cistern is clear, odorless, has viscosity similar to water, and measured 7 on the pH scale (neutral). The liquid is likely from rain and snowmelt. It is estimated that the depth of water in the cistern was ~1 ft and the cistern contained approximately 2,000 gallons of liquid. There is no evidence of disturbed, stained or discolored soil near the cistern. Based on interviews with Cultural Resource personnel, this site is a recorded 1909 homestead and the cistern was used for fresh water storage. This site may also have been a stage stop because of its proximity to the Big Lost River and artifacts left at the site. There is no evidence that the cistern is a source of potential contamination.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? ☒ High ☐ Med ☐ Low (check one) Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

This information was obtained from an environmental baseline assessment and subsequent site investigations and sampling conducted by Cultural Resource and WAG 10 personnel. Photographs taken during the investigations show the condition of the cistern, artifacts, and present description of the site.

**Block 3 Has this information been confirmed? ☒ Yes ☐ No (check one)  
If so, describe the confirmation.**

This information was confirmed through site inspections, photographs and Cultural Resource historical findings.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

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Summary documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Well data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Question 6. Estimate the length, width, and depth of the contaminated region. What is the known or estimated volume of the source? If this is an estimated volume, explain carefully how the estimate was derived.**

**Block 1 Answer:**

Site investigation and photographs indicate that the cistern is located approximately 2 ft above ground level with a base dimension of 10-12 ft. The liquid appears to be at least ~1 ft deep. The cistern is estimated to hold 2,000 gallons of liquid. Based on pH sample and visual evidence, there is no indication that a source is present at this site.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? XHigh \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Low (check one)**  
**Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

The information was obtained from an environmental baseline assessment, Cultural Resource and WAG 10 investigations, pH results, and photographs. The site assessments revealed no visual evidence of contamination.

**Block 3 Has this INFORMATION been confirmed? XYes \_\_\_ No (check one)**  
**If so, describe the confirmation.**

This information was confirmed through site inspections, pH testing results, photographs and INEEL Cultural Resource historical research.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

No available information	<input type="checkbox"/>		Analytical data	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Summary documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Well data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Question 7. What is the known or estimated quantity of hazardous substance/constituent at this source? If the quantity is an estimate, explain carefully how the estimate was derived.**

**Block 1 Answer:**

The estimated quantity of hazardous substances/constituents at this site is near zero because there is no evidence of hazardous materials. The cistern contains clear liquid with viscosity similar to water. The debris inside the cistern consists of a piece of wood and natural algae. The pH measured 7, indicating neutral on the scale. There is no evidence of odor, or disturbed, stained or discolored soil surrounding the cistern. Based on artifacts and historical research, Cultural Resources stated that this is an old homestead/stage crossing and the cistern was likely used for fresh water storage for residents or travelers moving across the area during the early twentieth century.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? X High \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Low (check one)**  
**Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

This evaluation is based on interviews, site visitations, sample results, and photographs of the area. There is no evidence of hazardous constituents at this site.

**Block 3 Has this INFORMATION been confirmed? X Yes \_\_\_ No (check one)**  
**If so, describe the confirmation.**

This information was confirmed through site inspections, sample results, Cultural Resource historical research, interviews and photographs.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

No available information	<input type="checkbox"/>		Analytical data	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Summary documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Well data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>			



**Question 8. Is there evidence that this hazardous substance/constituent is present at the source as it exists today? If so, describe the evidence.**

**Block 1 Answer:**

There is no evidence that a hazardous substance/constituent is present at levels that required action at this site. INEEL Cultural Resources personnel confirm that this is a historical homestead/stage stop dating to the early part of the twentieth century. Artifacts found at the site are domestic in nature, very old and predate INEEL activities. Site inspections and pH testing indicate that there is no potential source of contamination from the cistern liquid.

**Block 2 How reliable are the information sources? X High \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Low (check one)**  
**Explain the reasoning behind this evaluation.**

This evaluation is based on interviews, pH sample, site visitation, and photographs of the area.

**Block 3 Has this INFORMATION been confirmed? X Yes \_\_\_ No (check one)**  
**If so, describe the confirmation.**

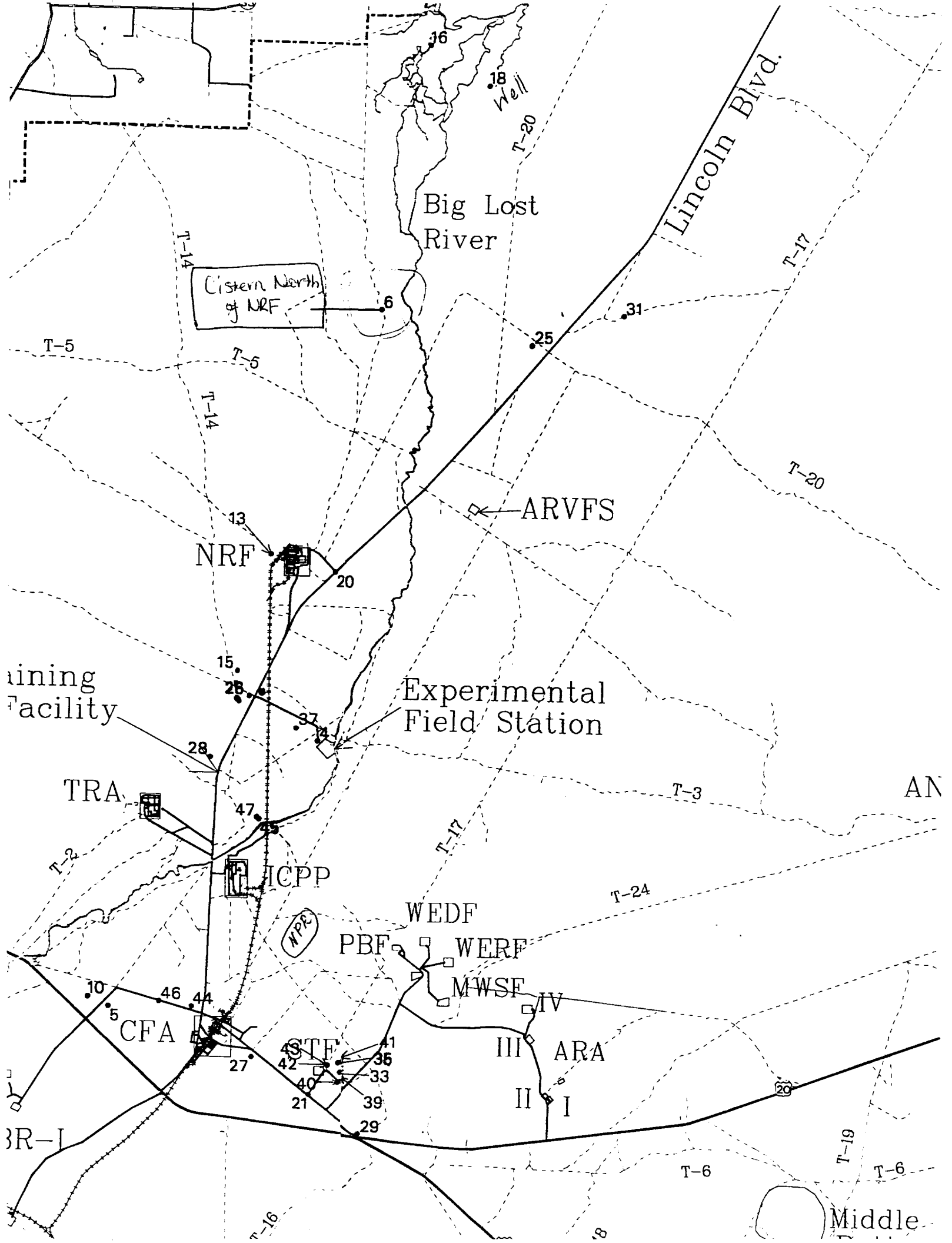
This information was confirmed through site inspections, sample results, Cultural Resource historical research, interviews and photographs.

**Block 4 Sources of Information [check appropriate box(es) & source number from reference list]**

No available information	<input type="checkbox"/>		Analytical data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anecdotal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2,5,6	Documentation about data	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Summary documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Well data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Construction data	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>			

## REFERENCES

1. DOE, 1992, Track 1 Sites: Guidance for Assessing Low Probability Sites at the INEL, DOE/ID-10390 (92), Revision 1, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Falls, Idaho, July.
2. Interview with Environmental Baseline Assessment team members, February 6-7, 2001.
3. FY 1999 WAG 10 Newly Identified Sites, Volumes I and II.
4. Photographs of Site 006: PN94-0778-2-9A, PN94-0778-2-6A.
5. Interviews with Brenda Ringe Pace, INEEL Cultural Resources Management, February 7, 2001 and May 16, 2001.
6. Site investigation conducted by Tom Haney, WAG 10 and Brenda Ringe Pace, INEEL Cultural Resources Management, June 26, 2001.



**Attachment A**

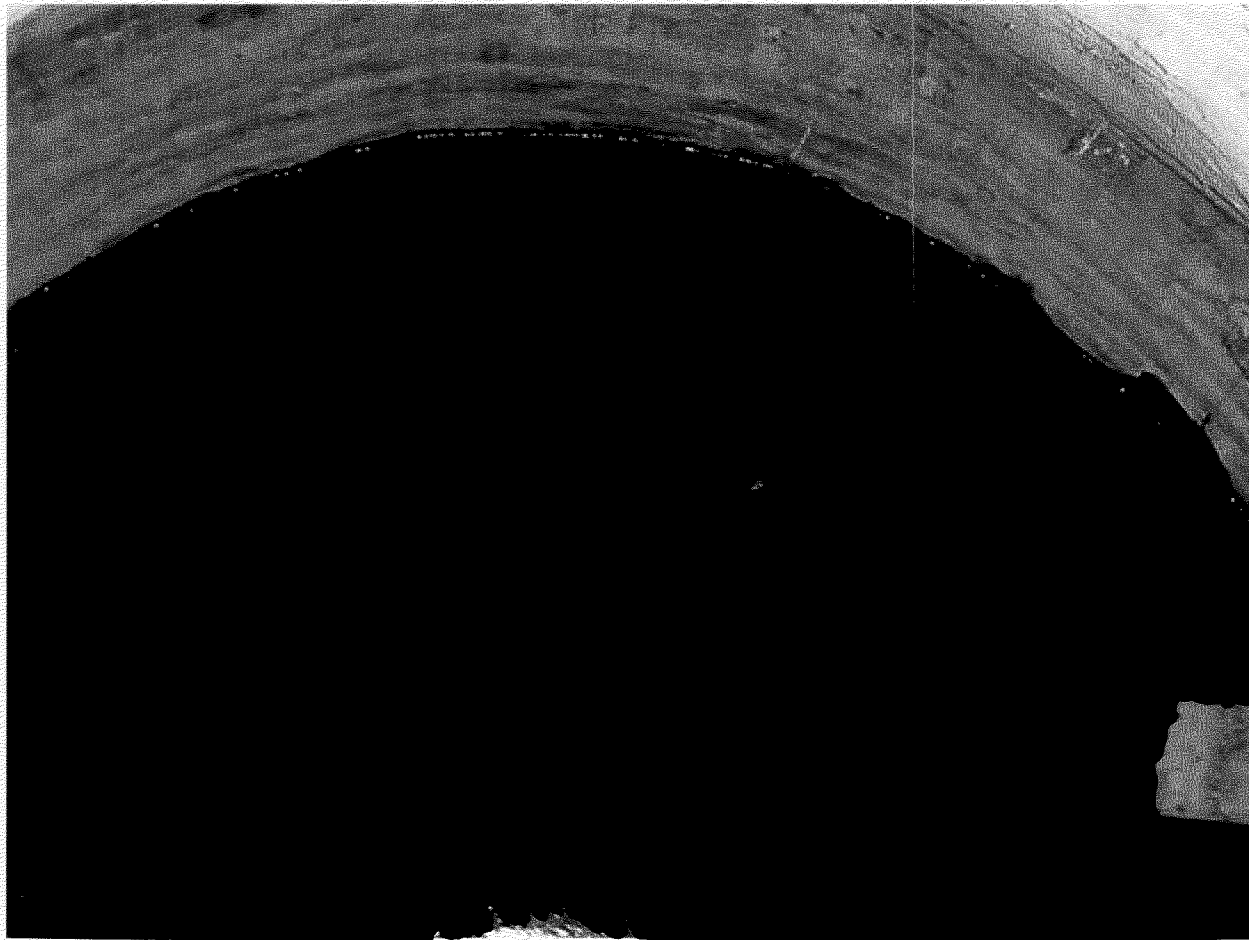
**Photographs of Site #006**



Site: 006, Cistern North of NRF  
(PN94-0778-2-6A)



Site: 006, Cistern North of NRF  
(PN94-0778-2-9A)



**Site 006, Cistern north of NRF**

**Attachment B**

**Supporting Information for Site #006**



## NEW SITE IDENTIFICATION

### Part A – To Be Completed By Observer

1. Person Initiating Report: Jacob Harris

Phone: 526-1877

Contractor WAG Manager: Douglas Burns

Phone: 526-4324

2. Site Title: 006, Cistern North of NRF

3. Describe the conditions that indicate a possible inactive or unreported waste site. Include location and description of suspicious condition, amount or extent of condition and date observed. A location map and/or diagram identifying the site against controlled survey points or global positioning system descriptors shall be included to help with the site visit. Include any known common names or location descriptors for the waste site.

This site is located along a canal 3.5-4 miles north of NRF. During the July 1999 site visit, a cistern with a collapsed wall and an unknown amount of liquid was observed. The liquid is 10 feet below ground level and appears to be clear with a viscosity similar to water. GPS coordinates of the site are E309535.909 N745867.140. The reference number for this site is 006 and can be found on the summary map as provided.

### Part B – To Be Completed By Contractor WAG Manager

4. Recommendation:

☒ This site meets the requirements for an inactive waste site, requires investigation, and should be included in the INEEL FFA/CO Action Plan. Proposed Operable Unit assignment is recommended to be included in the FFA/CO.  
WAG: Operable Unit:

☐ This site DOES NOT meet the requirements for an inactive waste site, DOES NOT require investigation and SHOULD NOT be included in the INEEL FFA/CO Action Plan.

5. Basis for the recommendation:

The conditions that exist at this site indicate the potential for an inactive waste site according to Section 2 of MCP-3448 Reporting or Disturbance of Suspected Inactive Waste Sites.

The basis for recommendation must include: (1) source description; (2) exposure pathways; (3) potential contaminants of concern; and (4) descriptions of interfaces with other programs, as applicable (e.g., D&D, Facility Operations, etc.)

6. Contractor WAG Manager Certification: I have examined the proposed site and the information submitted in this document and believe the information to be true, accurate, and complete. My recommendation is indicated in Section 4 above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_